## <u>REMARKS</u>

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-3 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and new claims 4-7 are added. No new matter is added.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicants note that the instant Preliminary Amendment has been prepared to place the claims in condition consistent with U.S. patent claim drafting practice and to replace multiple dependent claims with equivalent claims, in single dependent form. Applicants note that the scope of the claims has not been narrowed for any reasons related to a basis of patentability, and, therefore, that no estoppel should attach.

Applicants also take this opportunity to note that the WO 2005/070500 A1 publication has no text on page 18. For this reason Applicants have changed page number "19" to "18" on the WO 2005/070500 A1 filed herewith.

Please charge any additional fees necessary for consideration of the papers filed herein and refund excess payments to Deposit Account No. 50-2929.

P02276.A04

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted, D. Ion Cristian DEGERATU et al.

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